

REMARKS

Status of claims

Claims 1, 2-8 and 20-23 are pending, of which claims 1 and 21 are independent.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter of claims 3, 6 and 21.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of allowable claim 3.

Accordingly, claim 3 has been cancelled without prejudice. Claim 21 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of base claim 1. Accordingly, claim 21 is now in condition for allowance. Claims 6 and 8 have been amended to correct informalities in the claim language. Claims 22 and 23 have been added, which correspond to original claims 8 and 20, respectively. Claims 9-19 have been cancelled without prejudice. Care has been exercised not to introduce new matter. Since no new issues for consideration have been introduced by this amendment, and the amendment places the application in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the amendment be entered.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 8 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hagemeister (USP 5,086,837). Since claim 1 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of allowable claim 3, claim 1 and all claims dependent thereon are patentable over the cited references. Thus, it is requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 8 and 20.

New Claims

Since new claims 22-23 depend upon claim 21, these claims are patentable over the cited references.


CONCLUSION

Having fully responded to all matters raised in the Office Action, Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, an indication for which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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